

LOUISVILLE EVENING BULLETIN.

VOL. 4.

LOUISVILLE, KY., MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 18, 1855.

NO. 220.

THE EVENING BULLETIN

IS PUBLISHED AT THE
OFFICE OF THE LOUISVILLE JOURNAL
Every afternoon at two o'clock, except on Sundays.
TERMS.

Per week 10 cents
Per annum, payable quarterly \$5.00
Mail-subscribers, per annum, in advance 4.00
Advertisers inserted in the Evening Bulletin upon the
usual terms. 4.00
Advertisers transferable from the Louisville Daily
Journal at half-price. 2.00

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

IS PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY AT THE FOLLOWING RATES, PAYABLE
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MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1855.

MASSACHUSETTS AND THE UNION.—The recent nullifying legislation of Massachusetts requires grave consideration from every friend of the Union. It will lead to similar retaliatory legislation on the part of the Southern States against her and all other States following her example. She and others will again retaliate against the South, and thus, by mere separate State legislation, all the valuable purposes of the Union will be destroyed, and in the opinion of none will it be worth preserving.

When a system of retaliation is carried on between States it is never confined to the mere *lex talionis*. The retribution prescribed always exceeds the offense to be redressed. Two recent examples must satisfy all, that, so far as regards the South, such will be the measure of redress when she commences the work of retaliation. For countering a moneyed combination at the North to control the politics of Kansas, the people of Missouri promptly and effectually resorted to the bowie-knife and revolver. A lady of Memphis, Tenn., passing through Ohio, was assaulted by a ruffian in a railroad car with her young female slave, who, with its arms around her neck, was clinging to her and shrieking for protection. He tore them asunder from their mutual embrace without any legal warrant for so doing. His conduct was sustained by the judicial authorities. The little girl was apprenticed to some one who thought he could make profit out of her, and the lady was thus robbed of her property. When news of this outrage reached Memphis, there happened to be two Ohio flatboats lying at the wharf; public sentiment called for vengeance, and, but for the earnest entreaties of some of their most respectable and influential citizens, the people of Memphis would have pitched the cargoes of the two boats into the river. They were persuaded to content themselves with a resolve in town meeting to cease all commercial intercourse with Cincinnati, the residence of the ruffian.

Virginia, the leading Southern State, has put herself under the guidance of the most hot-headed, intemperate man that could have been called from the whole South; a man who no doubt attributes all his own personal success in life to pugnacity and bullying. Submission to the nullifying legislation of Massachusetts would not be expected from Virginia under any circumstances. How far she will go under the lead of her new Governor in retaliatory legislation no man can foresee. What she does, the whole South, with the exception of Maryland and Kentucky, will also do. Those two States will forbear such legislation, not because they will not deem it eminently just and proper, but because their stake in the preservation of the Union is so large as to sink all other questions into comparative insignificance, and because they cannot afford to resort to any legislation which tends to the destruction of the Union.

The last Legislature of Massachusetts is said to have been composed of a very ignorant body of men. But, whatever plausibility there may be in this excuse for their folly, they could not have been so ignorant as not to have known that the framers of the Federal Constitution considered a negro slave as much as anything else the legitimate subject of property. They knew that no constitution would have been proposed or adopted which did not recognize that principle. They knew the universal sentiment in the South to be that ownership of a slave as property was just as worthy of protection, and that its protection is just as amply guaranteed in the Federal Constitution, as the ownership of a bale of goods, as a box of shoes, or a cask of codfish. Massachusetts cannot, under the plea of ignorance, escape the imputation of having willfully renounced her allegiance to the Union, or, in other words, willfully refused to perform her duties under the national compact. By the legislative countenance she has given to the theft and robbery of Southern property, by the immunity she promises to the thieves and robbers, and by the official exaltation of the more prominent of the aiders and abettors of those thieves and robbers, she knowingly violates all sense of propriety and justice, and hurlis a presumptuous and vindictive defiance against the whole South. She could never have done this with her eyes entirely open to the consequences to herself. She did not know the extent of the retaliating power of the South. She was hugging herself in conscious security under the belief that her shipping, her cotton goods, her shoes, and her codfish were panoplied in proof by the Constitution against all similar legislation on the part of the South. It is high time that she and all other States inclining to follow her example should be undeceived. The South has ample power to command the ingredients of her poisoned chalice to her own destruction, and she should be made to know it. She herself has by her example pointed the way to a simple application of the *lex talionis*, which shall effectually deprive her, by laws in strict

accordance with the letter of the constitution, of all participation in the commercial benefits of the Union.

Suppose Virginia, acting in the spirit of this legislation of Massachusetts, should pass a law, saying that nothing of the growth or product of Massachusetts soil or labor, imported into Virginia after a named day, should be deemed the subject of larceny or robbery, and that the stealing or robbery of no such thing should be punished within that State. Suppose further, that any Southern State, with the exception of Maryland and Kentucky, should follow her example and adopt a similar law. The consequence would be the calling forth and arousing into vigilant action the unanimous public sentiment of the South, to interdict all commercial intercourse with Massachusetts. All men, publicly and privately, would aid to enforce the interdict. No legislation under ordinary circumstances could devise so effectual a non-intercourse. It would be thus effectual even though the Constitution expressly prohibited such legislation. The Federal Government, even if it had the conceded constitutional authority, would not have the effective, practical power to counteract such a state of things. But there is no express prohibition against such legislation, and Congress has not even constructive power to ward off or alleviate any of its effects.

It belongs exclusively to the Legislature of Virginia to prescribe what shall constitute theft or robbery within her borders. There is nothing in the Federal Constitution to fasten any part of her penal code upon her and make it irrepealable. Such a law as the one indicated makes no discrimination between citizens of Massachusetts and those of Virginia. It gives no more protection to the things described when in the hands of the one than it does when in the hands of the other. It merely declares that they shall not be considered or protected as property when in the hands of either. It will be vain to search the Constitution for express prohibition against such legislation; or for any power in the government to compel Virginia to punish as crime what she chooses to say shall not be crime, nor punished as such within her borders.

Say the power in Congress to regulate commerce among the States carries with it, as a necessary consequence, authority to punish theft or robbery of property imported into Virginia by a citizen of Massachusetts whilst owned by him.

This would be a most liberal stretch of implied power, but nothing would be gained thereby, for it would avail him nothing to protect it only whilst owned by him and leave it unprotected when purchased by a citizen of Virginia. If the latter cannot hold, he will not buy, and the Massachusetts man is not protected to any valuable purpose, unless he can find buyers. But concede that the incidental power of Congress could extend to the protection of such property even in the hands of purchasers—rogue and robbers would laugh at Congressional penalties when they had to be enforced by a single marshal and his few deputies. It is not at all probable that Congress would create a local police and a judicial system in each Southern State, adequate to the enforcing such penalties and thereby affording protection. Besides every attempt to enforce such penalties would be just as repugnant to public sentiment in the South and would be resisted by popular feeling there, in the same way as the capture and rendition of a runaway slave is resisted in Massachusetts. Indeed public sentiment in the South would effectually aid the Legislatures in carrying out such a policy. By voluntary association every evasion of it would be prevented, and all traders attempting such evasion would be inexorably proscribed.

Every man of intelligence will at once exclaim that such legislation will be a plain violation of the spirit of the Constitution, which so clearly contemplates a free intercommunication between the citizens of the different States for the purposes of commerce. Granted: it is clearly so; it is as flagrant a violation of the spirit of the national compact as could be devised. But in the estimation of Southern men it is not at all more so than the similar legislation of Massachusetts as to their slave property. Will she appeal to the moral sentiment of the South against an infraction of the spirit of the Constitution, which with honorable men should be deemed as inviolable as its plain, unambiguous letter? They will taunt her with her own dereliction not only as to the spirit but as to the plain letter of the Constitution. They will tell her that she attempts to deny to Southern men the plain right of transit through her territory for their slave property, and attempts by her legislation to disable the Federal Government from fulfilling a duty in the restitution of such property, expressly enjoined by the Constitution in the plainest and most indisputable manner. How far Southern Legislatures will suffer themselves to be controlled by the mere spirit of the Constitution, when not tied by its express language, she can judge by the conduct of her own Legislature, when guilty of a wanton aggression and not stimulated as the South will be by a thirst for retaliatory revenge. By taking away the protection of her laws from the ownership of slave property and by inciting her citizens to the theft and robbery of such property, Massachusetts repudiates the duty of comity which she owes her sister States and outrages the moral sense of the South just as grossly as if she had done the same thing in regard to cotton or tobacco. In the estimation of Southern men, there is no difference between the two. In a moral point of view, they consider the one as much as the other a violation of her duty, as a party to the national compact.

Such a mode of retaliation, adopted as it is likely to be by nearly every Southern State, would be more injurious to the commercial interests of Massachusetts than an embargo on her foreign commerce. Most of her factories and the larger part of her manufacturing labor would be stopped in less than a year. Her capital and her labor would be transferred to other States. Being without redress under the Constitution, she would seek her revenge by an endeavor to dissolve the Union. If there be any common-sense forethought guiding her present action, that must be her ultimate aim. Before she pursues her project further, it will be well for her to consider carefully the chance for success in that project.

What she can accomplish in New England, she herself best knows. The South will feel no particular interest in preventing her from seducing the whole of it into secession. She will have little chance of carrying any other portion of the Union with her. Try the probabilities of her success on Pennsylvania, the State which bounds the slaveholding States on their northeastern boundary. In a severance between North and South, where will that State go in the formation of a new confederation? She will go where every people will go when free to choose a political alliance—that is, where her great commercial interests point. Nearly the whole of these have a Southern direction. North and East of her she finds but little market and the severest competition in every branch of her business. Her position being fixed, it is quite certain what that of New York will be. She will never voluntarily resign her position as the commercial center and heart of such a nation to become a mere frontier appendage to New England, and thereby permit Pennsylvania to take her position. Try the probabilities in the Northwest; try them upon Illinois. You find her locked in the close embrace of Kentucky and Missouri, with an almost identity of commercial interests. She would have no motive of interest in converting Kentuckians and Missourians into a foreign and hostile people. She is not so imbued with the anti-slavery fanaticism as to do anything so suicidal, without even taking into the estimate her interest in the great Southern market for the sale of her products. And as she goes and as Kentucky goes, so also it may safely be inferred will Indiana go.

Such a mode of investigation must satisfy every intelligent man that the slaveholding line can never become the line of separation unless the South unanimously so wills it. That such unanimity cannot be obtained we have the most abundant guarantee in the vital interests of Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, and Western Virginia. The severance of the Union on any line west of New England may therefore be most confidently assumed as utterly impracticable.

If Massachusetts is working to obtain a severance on any other line, she is seeking to attain an impracticability. The sooner she gets a knowledge of this fact and sets about re-shaping her course, all the better for her. It behoves her thinking men to ponder this matter well, and to determine whether, by a well-concerted, vigorous effort, they cannot rescue her destiny from the petticoat government of her unfeminine women and her feminine men—her clergy and her fanatics. She should remember and heed the warning of her great orator and statesman, who told her that her duty to the Union, and by consequence her greater duty to herself, was to conquer her *prejudices*. By submitting herself to such petticoat government, she yields her destiny to the guidance of mere prejudice. In her present warfare against the South she is made to play a most unequal game. Her power against the South is one of mere insult and annoyance. Her only weapons are those of tergiversant women, railing and scolding; whilst her adversary has the power of almost annihilating her commercial prosperity. Her commercial rivals among the free States will laugh at, while benefiting by her folly. Mere sympathy in a blind prejudice, which has no practical aim and can result in no practical good, can never induce the thoroughly practical men of New York and Pennsylvania to be guilty of the suicidal folly of following her example. If she has living statesmen, it is time for her to hunt them up and put them in power.

The egregious folly of repealing the Missouri compromise, an act in which the South had no substantial interest and from which it can derive no important benefit, has enabled the Abolitionists to play upon Northern prejudice and wake an unanimous expression of indignation, which looks like equal sympathy with their ulterior views of mischief. But this appearance is merely delusive. To avenge a supposed wrong or breach of faith on the part of the South, by undoing what has been done, and to punish the supposed treason of Northern Representatives is one thing; but, to dissolve the Union is another and very different thing. It will be found so even among the people of Massachusetts. Not more than twenty-five years ago the public sentiment of that people would not permit the incendiary doctrines of Abolitionists to be propagated publicly, even in that State. With their usual sagacity they saw that no good could ensue and much mischief might arise from playing upon and arousing Northern prejudices against negro slavery. They refused the use of their churches and public halls to Abolitionists, and encouraged their boys to silence their attempts at public lectures by pelting them with cuds and eggs. Her thinking men knew that, whatever may be the curse of negro slavery, it was an ineradicable evil and one that their Southern brethren were doomed to bear. They felt it was not in accordance with their own duty as neighbors and fellow-citizens to do what was so

obviously calculated to increase the burden, without any, even the remotest, prospect of benefit to the negro race. They knew that Southern men were playing the part of negro drivers for the especial benefit of the free States, so long as the latter had the benefit of a monopoly of their commerce. They knew that the Union secured for them the monopoly of the most valuable market in the world for all the products of their industry. In such a gainful partnership, they knew that so long as Southern men voluntarily chose to endure the curse of negro slavery and play the part of slave drivers, with such large resulting benefits to the North, it became not the latter to upbraid the former with their misfortune, still less officiously to intermeddle. The teachings of such plain common sense, the promptings of such plain principles of common honesty, cannot have died out with any people in the lapse of only a quarter of a century. There must be enough of both left with the *real men* of Massachusetts to redeem their State from its petticoat government.

Her two abolition Senators have been eminently successful in their treasonable machinations. By preventing the Know Nothing party of Massachusetts from nationalizing itself and by timely publication of that refusal, they accomplished what they intended, the defeat of that party in Virginia and possibly the prevention of its successful spread over the Southern States. Should that be the result, we shall hear nothing from the halls of Congress; for the next two years, but mutual recrimination and abuse from the representatives of the two sides of the slave line. This will influence the already existing state of bad feeling among the great body of the people in both sections. In the estimation of considerate men, that alone will present a crisis of great peril to the Union. Does it behoove Massachusetts at such a juncture to give the whole weight of her influence and example toward widening the breach and enhancing that peril? It is not possible but that the great body of her people must still be at heart loyal to the Union; they cannot be seriously tainted with the traitorous views of her Senators. If not, then let her intelligent, discreet men, her sober-thinking practical men ponder well the question, whether it be safe or prudent for her to leave her recent act of nullification as an irritating defiance to the whole South; whether she can afford to provoke the South into making the experiment to form a new confederacy of States better suited to its peace and quiet and therefore prosperity? Let them look to it in time and ponder well the probable position of Massachusetts, in the arranging any such new confederacy. Her strong-minded women and her feeble-minded men will have achieved a great thing for New England, if the result of their machinations leaves her no alternative but a retrocession of her independence to old England, for the sake of protection and sympathy in her abolition views.

Here is a sweet breathing from one of the purest and brightest spirits in all our Western land:

[For the Louisville Bulletin.]

THE SPIRIT-BIRD.

They made a grave beneath the shade,
Low on the green turf's breast,
And sadly, softly there they laid
The weary one to rest;
They piled the fresh mold high above,
They planted flowers around,
And tears of mingled grief and love
Fall on the narrow mound.

They said she was too young and fair
To sleep within the tomb,
But oh! the choicest flowers they are
That fade in early bloom!
They knelt around the new-made grave,
And then the voice of prayer,
Of faith in Him who died to save,
Rose on the morning air.

They said that she was happy now,
Her spirit was at rest,
A glory-crown upon her brow,
Heaven's peace within her breast;
And, mingling with the voice of prayer,
The voice of praise arose,
To Him whose love had borne her there,
Safe from all human woes.

A little bird came sitting,
And, perching very near,
Poured forth a gush of melody
That thrilled the soul to hear;
And, while they wept, with bitter smart,
That Death might thus destroy,
It sung as if its little heart
Was over-full of joy.

Oh! there was something strangely sweet
In those heart-stirring tones,
Methought them sent from Heaven to greet
The band of sorrowing ones;
Perchance her happy spirit dwelt
A moment longer here,
And wrapt forth the joy it felt
Their heavy hearts to cheer.

"She'd not a tear," methought it said;
"Beloved ones weep no more!
Breathe not a sigh above my bed—
Not lost, but gone before!
Meet me in Heaven, the Glory-Land,"

"Sweetly it seemed to say;

Then, swift to join the angel band,
Her spirit flew away.

MINNIE.

FAIRMOUNT, HARDMAN CO., TENN., April, 1855.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—About 1 o'clock yesterday morning a fire broke out in the chair manufactory on the corner of Fifth and York streets, beyond Broadway. The inflammable material caused the fire to spread with great rapidity. The great distance from the engine-houses as well as the great difficulty in procuring water caused the fire to spread to the city schoolhouse, a splendid new three-story brick building. It was covered with a copper roof, but the fire caught the wooden cornish, and from it spread to the wood-work under the roof, thus preventing the firemen from throwing water on it at all, until the upper story was totally consumed. We believe the building was insured.

The chair factory belonged to a German and there was no insurance on it. His loss is about \$6,000.

LIEUTENANT MAURY AND OCEAN STEAMERS.

Lieutenant Maury has certainly done "some service to the State," and the people know it. He has made science subservient to practical art; he has ranged among the stars, and he has traced the paths upon the ocean, along which American and European commerce should glide. In the early part of this year, a letter was written to Lieutenant Maury by the underwriters and ship-owners of Boston, requesting a development of the suggestion which had already been made by him concerning the propriety of steamers choosing different routes in coming and going across the Atlantic. The reply of Lieutenant Maury was a learned and valuable letter, the result of most laborious and patient investigation, in which the subject of "lanes for the steamers crossing the Atlantic" is, in a short space, clearly and fully discussed. The conclusion arrived at by the distinguished philosopher is that the "adoption of the lanes, so far from materially lengthening the passages to and fro, will probably shorten the average to the West, and not increase the average to the East more than a few hours, if at all."

This letter of Mr. Maury was a most able production and a contribution to practical navigation that cannot fail to be valuable to every body interested in ships, from the ship-owner to the insurer. The pecuniary advantage to all those interested must be very great. When the New York Board of Underwriters heard of the existence of this letter they requested a copy of it from Lieutenant Maury, who promptly furnished it, whereupon two of the presidents of certain insurance offices tendered him their *thanks*. They say:

Your eminent abilities have been most usefully employed in investigating the subject. The number and variety of facts you give, evincing such thorough research and practical knowledge, the clearness and force with which your views are presented, and the results at which you have arrived, command our admiration and respect, and cannot fail to be convincing to every candid and practical mind. It will be our earnest endeavor to place the subject before the masters and managers of the steamships and sailing vessels now plying between this port and Europe, in such a manner as we trust will attain the desired end.

For your labors on this and other subjects connected with commerce, we deem that you are entitled to the heartfelt thanks of the world, and especially those who "go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters."

Thanks are an unprofitable, a poor compensation for services. Glory is good as far as it goes, but won't buy meat and bread. The late Stephen Girard once saw a crowd on the dock at Philadelphia. He went up to see the cause of it and learned that a poor drayman had backed his dray into the slip and drowned his horse. This dray and horse were the only means of support of himself and family. Every body was pitying him, and deplored the ill luck of the poor man. "Gentlemen," said Girard, addressing the crowd, "I pity this man *fifty dollars*; how much do you pity him?" If the New York Board of Underwriters will turn their thanks into dollars and give them to the Lieutenant, it will be more to the purpose.

THE river is falling. Last evening there were 6 feet 2 inches water on the falls and $\frac{3}{4}$ feet in the canal. The weather has been hot during the last two days. There was a violent storm last evening, but little rain fell here.

The Mississippi at St. Louis and its tributaries were falling rapidly at our last dates.

The Cumberland was falling with 28 inches water on the shoals.

NEW DIRECTION TO PROVISIONS.—The Cleveland Herald of the 13th says Hubby, Hughes & Co. of that city are shipping by the way of the Erie Canal and the Atlantic, 200 tons of shoulders and hams to Richmond, Va. The contract for shipment is made with the American Transportation Company, at \$10 a ton from Cleveland to Richmond. From New York city the shipment will be by propeller. Some 80 tons are already afloat.

Gov. Reeder, accompanied by his private secretary, G. P. Lowrey, Esq., left New York on Thursday for Kansas Territory, to resume his official duties. The journey, it is expected, will occupy about ten days. The Territorial Legislature meets on the 2d of July at Pawnee, but will probably adjourn to Shawnee Mission, some 200 miles this side of Pawnee.

ANTI-AMERICAN NOMINATIONS IN JEFFERSON.—The anti-American meeting held in Jefferson on Saturday, nominated Samuel Geiger, Esq., for the Senate, and Joshua P. Bullitt and Wm. A. Merriweather, Esq., for the House. The Senatorial district is composed of Jefferson county and the seventh and eighth wards of this city. Col. Preston addressed the meeting.

There is now in jail in Cambridge, Mass., a man who has been imprisoned for five years because of a debt of twenty-three dollars.

Exchange.

The fellow is a fool! If he would black himself, and pass for a runaway nigger, he would be sent away free in five minutes.

Andrew

EVENING BULLETIN.

MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 18, 1855.

PLATFORM OF THE AMERICAN PARTY.—We publish to-day an official copy of the platform of the Philadelphia American convention:

PLATFORM AND PRINCIPLES.

1.—The acknowledgment of that Almighty Being, who rules over the Universe—who presides over the councils of nations—who conducts the affairs of men, and who, in every step by which we have advanced to the character of an independent nation, has distinguished us by some token of Providence.

II.—The cultivation and development of a sentiment of profoundly intense American feeling; of passionate attachment to our country, its history, and its institutions; of admiration for the purest days of our national existence; of veneration for the heroism that precipitated our revolution; and of emulation of the virtue, wisdom, and patriotism that framed our Constitution and first successfully applied its provisions.

III.—The mainenance of the union of these United States as the paramount political good; or, to use the language of Washington, "the primary object of patriotic desire." And hence—

1st. Opposition to all attempts to weaken or subvert it.

2d. Uncompromising antagonism to every principle of policy that endangers it.

3d. The advocacy of an equitable adjustment of all political differences which threaten its integrity or perpetuity.

4th. The suppression of all tendencies to political division, founded on "geographical discriminations, or on the belief that there is a real difference of interests and views" between the various sections of the Union.

5th. The full recognition of the rights of the several States, as expressed and reserved in the Constitution; and a careful avoidance, by the General Government, of all interference with their rights by legislative or executive action.

IV.—Obedience to the Constitution of these United States, as the supreme law of the land, sacredly obligatory upon all its parts and members; and steadfast resistance to the spirit of innovation upon its principles, however specious the pretexts. Avowing that in all doubtful or disputed points it may only be legally ascertained and expounded by the judicial power of the United States.

And, as a corollary to the above—

1. A habit of reverential obedience to the laws, whether National, State, or Municipal, until they are either repealed or declared unconstitutional by the proper authority.

2. A tender and sacred regard for those acts of statesmanship, which are to be contrasted with acts of ordinary legislation, by the fact of their being of the nature of compacts and agreements; and so, to be considered a fixed and settled national policy.

V.—A radical revision and modification of the laws regulating immigration, and the settlement of immigrants. Offering to the honest immigrant, who, from love of liberty or hatred of oppression, seeks an asylum in the United States, a friendly reception and protection. But unqualifiedly condemning the transmission to our shores of felons and paupers.

VI.—The essential modification of the Naturalization Laws.

The repeal by the Legislatures of the respective States of all State laws allowing foreigners not naturalized to vote.

The repeal, without retroactive operation, of all acts of Congress making grants of land to unnaturalized foreigners, and allowing them to vote in the Territories.

VII.—Hostility to the corrupt means by which the leaders of party have hitherto forced upon us our rulers and our political creeds.

Implacable enmity against the prevalent demoralizing system of rewards for political subserviency, and of punishments for political independence.

Disgust for the wild hunt after office which characterizes the age.

Those on the one hand. On the other—

Imitation of the practice of the purer days of the Republic; and admiration of the maxim that "office should see the man, and not man the office," and of the rule that, the just mode of ascertaining fitness for office is the capability, the faithfulness, and the honesty of the incumbent or candidate.

VIII.—Resistance to the aggressive policy and corrupting tendencies of the Roman Catholic Church in our country by the advancement to all political stations—executive, legislative, judicial, or diplomatic—of those only who do not hold civil allegiance, directly or indirectly, to any foreign power whether civil or ecclesiastical, and who are Americans by birth, education, and training—thus fulfilling the maxim, "AMERICANS ONLY SHALL GOVERN AMERICA."

The protection of all citizens in the legal and proper exercise of their civil and religious rights and privileges; the maintenance of the right of every man to the full, unrestrained, and peaceful enjoyment of his own religious opinions and worship, and a jealous resistance of all attempts by any sect, denomination, or church to obtain an ascendency over any other in the State, by means of any special privileges or exemption, by any political combination of its members, or by a division of their civil allegiance with any foreign power, potentate, or ecclesiastic.

IX.—The reformation of the character of our National Legislature, by elevating to that dignified and responsible position men of higher qualifications, pure morals, and more unselfish patriotism.

X.—The restriction of executive patronage, especially in the matter of appointments to office, so far as it may be permitted by the Constitution, and consistent with the public good.

XI.—The education of the youth of our country in schools provided by the State; which schools shall be common to all, without distinction of creed or party, and free from any influence or direction of a denominational or partisan character.

And, inasmuch as Christianity by the Constitution of nearly all the States, by the decisions of the most eminent judicial authorities, and by the consent of the people of America, is considered an element of our political system, and as the Holy Bible is at once the source of Christianity, and the depository and fountain of all civil and religious freedom, we oppose every attempt to exclude it from the schools thus established in the States.

XII.—The American party, having arisen upon the ruins and in spite of the opposition of the Whig and Democratic parties, cannot be held in any manner responsible for the obnoxious acts or violated pledges of either. And the systematic agitation of the slavery question by those parties having elevated sectional hostility into a positive element of political power, and brought our institutions into peril, it has therefore become the imperative duty of the American party to interpose for the purpose of giving peace to the country and perpetuity of the Union. And as experience has shown it impossible to reconcile opinions so extreme as those which separate the disputants, and as there can be no dishonor in submitting to the laws, the National Council has deemed it the best guarantee of common justice and of future peace, to abide by and maintain the existing

laws upon the subject of slavery, as a final and conclusive settlement of that subject, in spirit and in substance:

And regarding it the highest duty to avow their opinions upon a subject so important, in distinct and unequivocal terms, it is hereby declared that the sense of this National Council, that Congress possesses no power, under the Constitution, to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States where it does or may exist, or to exclude any State from admission into the Union because its constitution does or does not recognize the institution of slavery as a part of its social system; and expressly pretermits any expression of opinion upon the power of Congress to establish or prohibit slavery in any Territory, it is the sense of the National Council that Congress ought not to legislate upon the subject of slavery within the territory of the United States, and that any interference by Congress with slavery as it exists in the District of Columbia would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District to the United States, and a breach of the National faith.

XIII.—The policy of the Government of the United States, in its relations with foreign governments, is to exact justice from the strongest, and do justice to the weakest; restraining, by all the power of the government, all its citizens from interference with the internal concerns of nations with whom we are at peace.

XIV.—This National Council declares that all the principles of the Order shall be henceforward everywhere openly avowed, and that each member shall be at liberty to make known the existence of the Order, and the fact that he himself is a member; and it recommends that there be no concealment of the places of meeting of subordinate councils.

E. B. BARTLETT, of Ky.,
President of National Council.

C. D. DESHLER, of New Jersey,
Corresponding Secretary.

JAMES M. STEPHENS, of Maryland,
Recording Secretary.

Inspector, the Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Courier, writes:

On the 12th proximo the Court of Claims will meet and take up their docket, which has become so heavy already as to appal the hardest worker of them all. They begin to find what a task they have undertaken, and already begin to feel the inadequacy of the compensation allowed them by law. They will, no doubt, be willing to be put on a level as to compensation with the heads of Departments, who have eight thousand a year, or double that allowed to the judges of the Court of Claims.

Their first business upon meeting will be to appoint the Commissioners in the different States, who are to take depositions at the order of the court.

For the city and county of New York there are to be three commissioners. Their pay is to be five dollars a day and twenty cents per folio for the manuscript. The depositions must also be printed at the expense of the claimant. The claimant may conduct his own case before the court, but if he employ counsel he must employ one who is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States, or in the highest State courts. The fees of the attorneys will be rated as high as known to the law, and the fees and expenses taken together, will probably absorb the amount of the claim, in many cases, that is, in case of the allowance of any claims. But the court will protect the interests of the government by such rules of evidence and law that few claims will ever be passed by them.

THE DEBTS OF THE CITIES OF THE UNION.—

The money circular of Messrs. Marie & Kanz, of New York, is accompanied by a table showing the debts of the leading cities of the Union. It is not, perhaps, exact in all its details, but it may be nevertheless regarded as a close approximation, and we therefore copy it:

PUBLIC DEBT, POPULATION, AND TAXABLES OF CITIES.

Cities.	Debt.	Population.	Taxables.
New York.	\$13,966,856	700,000	\$462,285,700
Albany.	2,632,016	60,000	21,506,661
Baltimore.	11,672,889	20,000	80,327,960
Philadelphia.	7,779,161	150,000	207,012,000
Bronx.	2,529,040	200,000	88,000,000
Cincinnati.	2,929,040	150,000	60,000,000
Cleveland.	720,000	31,000	15,510,779
Chicago.	728,000	80,000	24,392,238
Detroit.	817,624	40,373	12,518,116
Easton.	700,000	20,000	5,000,000
Louisville.	1,137,000	70,000	35,000,000
Milwaukee.	1,031,550	35,000	4,000,000
New Orleans.	12,147,262	160,000	72,247,420
Philadelphia.	15,370,794	500,000	155,369,000
St. Louis.	3,805,096	115,000	51,223,829
Sacramento.	1,480,536	10,000	9,000,000
San Francisco.	1,509,000	34,776	34,296,195
Wheeling.	1,205,950	14,136	

PARISIAN GOSSIP.—Our correspondents furnish us with a good deal of "gossip." A young Virginian has come to Paris, and "run off" with the eldest daughter of His Excellency, the American Minister, Mr. Mason, but legitimately run off, the parties being married, in the most approved way, in presence of father, mother and sisters, and friends. (Mr. and Mrs. Heath, we see, are passengers in the Atlantic, here.)

The U. S. Minister to Spain, Mr. Dodge, the Minister to Rome, Mr. Cass, the Hague Minister, Mr. Belmont, the Minister to Portugal, Mr. O'Sullivan, and Mr. Sibels, with Consuls and attachées, are enjoying Paris, and the exhibition. Mr. Dodge has been presented at the Tuilleries.

The "exhibition" makes a sorry show in the United States Department, and the American commissioners shrug up their shoulders about it *à la Francaise*, over only a piano of Mr. Donald, Bowery, N. Y., a chronometer, of Kline, Fulton street, some scales from Vermont, and some geographical charts of Lieut. Maury, and some India-rubber goods, of Goodyear's. Indeed, the Americans have had to yield up a third of their place to England and Austria.

X.—The restriction of executive patronage, especially in the matter of appointments to office, so far as it may be permitted by the Constitution, and consistent with the public good.

XI.—The education of the youth of our country in schools provided by the State; which schools shall be common to all, without distinction of creed or party, and free from any influence or direction of a denominational or partisan character.

And, inasmuch as Christianity by the Constitution of nearly all the States, by the decisions of the most eminent judicial authorities, and by the consent of the people of America, is considered an element of our political system, and as the Holy Bible is at once the source of Christianity, and the depository and fountain of all civil and religious freedom, we oppose every attempt to exclude it from the schools thus established in the States.

XII.—The American party, having arisen upon the ruins and in spite of the opposition of the Whig and Democratic parties, cannot be held in any manner responsible for the obnoxious acts or violated pledges of either. And the systematic agitation of the slavery question by those parties having elevated sectional hostility into a positive element of political power, and brought our institutions into peril, it has therefore become the imperative duty of the American party to interpose for the purpose of giving peace to the country and perpetuity of the Union. And as experience has shown it impossible to reconcile opinions so extreme as those which separate the disputants, and as there can be no dishonor in submitting to the laws, the National Council has deemed it the best guarantee of common justice and of future peace, to abide by and maintain the existing

laws upon the subject of slavery, as a final and conclusive settlement of that subject, in spirit and in substance:

And regarding it the highest duty to avow their opinions upon a subject so important, in distinct and unequivocal terms, it is hereby declared that Congress possesses no power, under the Constitution, to legislate upon the subject of slavery in the States where it does or may exist, or to exclude any State from admission into the Union because its constitution does or does not recognize the institution of slavery as a part of its social system; and expressly pretermits any expression of opinion upon the power of Congress to establish or prohibit slavery in any Territory, it is the sense of the National Council that Congress ought not to legislate upon the subject of slavery within the territory of the United States, and that any interference by Congress with slavery as it exists in the District of Columbia would be a violation of the spirit and intention of the compact by which the State of Maryland ceded the District to the United States, and a breach of the National faith.

PORTLAND RAILROAD.—The New Albany Ledger says: "This company have gone to great expense and pains for the accommodation of the immense travel between this city and Louisville, and their enterprise should be liberally patronized. The railroad is in excellent order, while the avenue is in most miserable plight. The railroad company should receive a liberal patronage from the traveling community."

NEWS ITEMS.

THE Buffalo Democracy says, that, as a train was crossing the suspension bridge on Tuesday, the scaffolding around the towers gave way and fell upon the cars. The train was stopped before any damage ensued. For a moment, however, there was a great consternation among the passengers, the impression being that the great bridge had fallen.

THE Washington Union announces that Mr. Robert McLane has resigned the office of Commissioner to China, and will resume his residence in Baltimore.

THEY another suit for libel came to a conclusion in New York on Tuesday in the Supreme Court. The defendants in this case, publishers, set up a plea of justification, the law of New York allowing the truth to be a justification, and the jury, believing their plea proved, gave a verdict in their favor. The plaintiff in this case laid his damages at \$25,000.

THEY a disturbance occurred in the Baptist church at Plainfield, N. J., on Sunday week. The facts, as stated, are, that while Rev. Mr. Welch, a converted Roman Catholic priest, was preaching and dilating upon the dogmas of that religion, the priest who officiates in the Catholic church of that place entered the church and commenced a tirade of abuse against the preacher. Several gentlemen present immediately took the inconsiderate priest out, and the preacher finished his discourse without further interruption.

THEY the liquor law lately voted on in Illinois was a curious piece of legislation. If a majority voted in its favor it was to go into effect in 1855; if a majority voted against it, it would go into effect in 1857. This is like the preacher who gave out that he would preach next Sabbath, the Lord willing, and two weeks from that time, anyhow.

THEY the Springfield Republican has seen a rough specimen of paper made from the stalks of broom corn. If it can be reduced to a finer pulp and bleached, it may perhaps answer for writing and printing.

THEY the California Legislature, being piously inclined, adjourned on Good Friday, and the members proceeded forthwith to a horse race!

THEY a shrewd boy in Worthington lately attached a contrivance, comprising a hammer, wires, spring, &c., to the floor underneath the school-marm's desk, with which he, while seated twenty feet or more distant, by means of a cord, startled the school in general and the teacher in particular, with an exhibition of the "rappings."

THEY SLAVE BORN OF A WHITE WOMAN FREED BY A VIRGINIA COURT.—The Richmond Enquirer of the 12th inst. gives the following account of a very interesting case which has been decided in the Botetourt Circuit Court:

Eliza Crawford and five children, colored, suing for their freedom. The case was decided in favor of the plaintiffs; the evidence being full and complete that the chief plaintiff, Eliza, was born of a white woman, of Georgia. She is now about thirty-five years of age, and has been in slavery between fifteen and twenty years.—Her appearance indicates that her father was a mixture of African and Indian. She is now the mother of six children, all of whom were plaintiffs, except the eldest, who never belonged to defendant, and who it is said, will now be set at liberty without resistance. There was no evidence, however, to show that the defendant was in any way privy to or accountable for the injustice done the plaintiffs.

THEY Vesuvius—Naples, May 10.—Vesuvius has now nearly done its bidding, and seems disposed to rest from its labors. I speak, of course, comparatively, for it is still active—still forms a magnificent spectacle from the capital. The cascade of fire—one of the modern wonders of the world—is now a blackened mass, and, contrasted with its late brilliant appearance, strikes one as if it had been arrested by some fell disease which had converted it into this stiffened, discolored corpse. All fear of further danger is now, I think, removed, and has been for several days. There was a suspension of the flow of lava for about eighteen hours.

THEY Naples, May 22.—Vesuvius is still, on the 24th day of the eruption, as active almost as it was on the first day. For many years it has not been known to continue so long in activity. In the direction of St. Jérôme the stream has become hardened, and flows no longer. In the direction of Cercola, however, it is still running over the old bed, and has passed beyond Pizzolato. There was a grand fete at St. George di Cimbrone, near St. Jérôme, on Saturday last, in honor of the saint to whose influence is attributed the stoppage of the lava in that direction. His Majesty was present, and the Cardinal preached, giving our patron saint due honors on the occasion.

THE LATE DUEL.—We learn that Mr. F. Leavenworth was arrested on Wednesday on a warrant issued by Justice Pearcey of the Jefferson Market Police Court for his participation in the late duel on Navy Island. The arrest was made at Schlosser, opposite the island on the American shore, where Mr. Leavenworth has been since the duel. Finding that he was not in a condition to be moved, the officers took bail for his appearance, and he accordingly remained at the same place. His wounds are in an encouraging state. The thigh bone has not been set, but that is soon to be done. The removal of the bullet will be left to nature.

THE other parties to the duel are

